

METHODS FOR CENSUSING ROCK WALLABIES ON OAHU

T. Sutterfield
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
1151 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

A population of Rock Wallaby (Macropodidae: Petrogale sp.), believed to be descendants of two escaped animals has become established in Kalihi Valley since the early 1900's.

Since this species of wallaby may be endangered in its Australian home range, a pilot program was carried out to test the feasibility of live capture, mark, release, and recapture for estimating the population on Oahu.

Ten standard box traps were situated in a grid of 60 x 80 meters for 116 trap nights. Animals captured were marked with numbered yellow plastic ear tags. A total of 20 wallabies were captured, sixteen animals (excluding 4 pouch young) were ear tagged and released. Of the sixteen animals tagged and released, one was recaptured three times, one twice, and four others were recaptured once. It was estimated that there were 53 ± 12 individuals in the 1.6 hectares trapped.